

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A sampling system, comprising:
a test strip configured for loading into a lancing device to analyze body fluid from an incision created by the lancing device, wherein the test strip has a strip shape, the test strip including
a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,
a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is remotely located from the test area, the sampling passageway being sized and configured to draw the body fluid via capillary action, the sampling passageway extending from the inlet opening to the test area for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area via capillary action,
a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the lancing device, and
a sealing member projecting outwardly from the bottom surface of the test strip proximal the inlet opening and positioned to seal with the skin when the test strip is pressed against the skin to retain the body fluid at the inlet opening;~~and~~
wherein the test strip with the sealing member is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit; and
wherein the sealing member has a surface that is hydrophobic.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein:
the test strip includes an end edge; and
the inlet opening is defined in the end edge.

35. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 48, wherein:
the test strip defines an aperture;
the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;
the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and
the sealing member surrounds the aperture on the bottom surface of the test strip.

36. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, wherein:
the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface; and
the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the sealing member is deformable upon pressing against the skin.

39. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface.

40. (Currently amended) A sampling system, comprising:
a test strip configured for loading into a lancing device to analyze body fluid from an incision created by the lancing device, wherein the test strip has strip shape, the test strip including

- a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,
- a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is remotely located from the test area, the sampling passageway being sized and configured to draw the body fluid via capillary action, the sampling passageway extending from the inlet opening to the test area for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area via capillary action,
- a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the lancing device, and
- the test strip having a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface to inhibit contact of the body fluid on the skin with the bottom surface of the test strip, wherein the recessed surface tapers away from the inlet opening to the bottom surface; and

wherein the test strip with the recessed surface is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein:
the test strip includes an end edge; and
the inlet opening is defined in the end edge.

42. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 57, wherein:
the test strip defines an aperture;
the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;
the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and
the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

Claims 43-47 (Canceled)

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 33, further comprising:
the lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing the incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing.

49. (Currently amended) The system of claim 33, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
the test area includes an opening that ~~opens~~ is open at the top surface of the test strip to permit reflectance of light for optical analysis.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
at least a portion of the top surface is hydrophobic to resist flow of the body fluid along the top surface.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface is hydrophobic.

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the sealing member is hydrophobic.

53. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 39, wherein the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

54. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 53, wherein the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.

55. (Currently amended) The test strip of claim 33, wherein:
the ~~body~~ test strip has an end edge; and
the inlet opening communicates with the end edge at a location spaced from the bottom surface.

56. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 55, wherein the test strip further includes first and second side edges extending from the end edge, the sealing member extending from the first side edge to the second side edge.

57. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 40, further comprising:
the lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing the incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing.

58. (Currently amended) The system of claim 40, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
the test area includes an opening that ~~opens~~ is open at the top surface of the test strip.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
at least a portion of the top surface is hydrophobic to resist flow of the body fluid along the top surface.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface is hydrophobic.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the recessed surface is hydrophobic.

62. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 40, wherein the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

63. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 61, wherein the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.